

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Austria has increased its already very active participation in European Partnerships. Researchers and policymakers appreciate the opportunities that European Partnerships offer.

Austria aims to align European and national priorities as part of its strategy towards partnerships towards strong, mutually beneficial European Partnerships. The European priorities of the Green Deal, the Green and Digital Twin Transition, as well as the UN SDGs, are among the guiding principles of our focus on participating in European Partnerships.

Participating in **21**  
European Partnerships  
out of 22(\*) (95%)

Increased - BMR 2022  
value: 71%

Coordinating **2**  
European Partnerships  
out of 16(\*\*) (12.5%)

Increased - BMR 2022  
value: 8%

Source: EC and country commitment letters – BMR 2022 refers to H2020 Partnership participation data.

(\*) Out of the 49 partnerships, 22 are relevant for country participation – this is the 'total' number of participations referred to here.

(\*\*) Out of the 22 partnerships that are relevant for country participation, countries can coordinate 16 Co-funded ones.

## EUR 310 million

in commitments in European Partnerships

Or **2%** of total commitments (\*)  
**139%** increase since BMR 2022  
(EUR 129 million) (\*\*)

## EUR 6 037

per researcher FTE(\*\*\*)

**119%** increase since BMR 2022  
(EUR 2 745) (\*\*)

Source: EC and country commitment letters.

(\*) The figure is estimated based on the commitment letters sent by the country to the EC. For the first batch of the Co-funded Partnerships, the respective figures from the Grant Agreements were considered in the absence of commitment letters for Bulgaria, Luxembourg and Romania, i.e. FSTP as the in-cash contributions, and the rest as in-kind contributions minus 30 % of the EU top-up and 50 % for PARC.

(\*) Commitment letters for the second batch of the Co-funded Partnerships from the countries Croatia, Luxembourg and Romania are missing and thus not included in the total commitments.

(\*\*) The country fiches in the previous BMR showed the actual contributions instead of commitments. For the estimation of the share of change since the last BMR, the pre-call contributions were considered instead of the actual national contributions to allow comparison.

(\*\*\*) Commitments per researcher are the total commitments by a country divided by the number of researchers estimated in full-time equivalents (FTE) average between 2017-2021, based on EUROSTAT data.

## KEY INTENTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Austria continues its active participation in European Partnerships, with a focus on strengthening national priorities as well as on European participation and integration.

Austria leads the Co-funded Partnerships Driving Urban Transition and Clean Energy Transition, where Austria has commenced correspondence with national missions demonstrating long-term impact, evaluation plans and secure funding.

Austria is also actively involved in ongoing and recently-established partnerships in the area of health and natural resources. The participation is connected with the Austrian Strategy for Research and Innovation 2030 and the Austrian long-term priorities for transformative innovation policy in domains such as energy transition, mobility transition, circular economy, and climate-neutral and smart cities.



## DIRECTIONALITY

Austrian priorities for participation in European Partnerships follow national research and innovation policy objectives.

Austria aims to enable the active participation of Austrian academic and industry researchers. Partnerships are tools for the implementation of EU Missions in Austria.

Austria actively supports the participation in EU Missions with the implementation of the recommendations of the Austrian Working Group on EU Missions. This is particularly important for the Driving Urban Transitions to a Sustainable Future Partnership that corresponds to the transformative Mission for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, along with other Missions such as Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe.

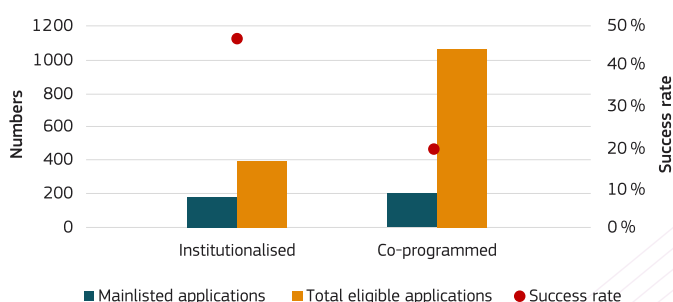
In addition, Austria commenced its participation in the Mission for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities with an impact and evaluation plan through to 2030 and a sufficient and stable budget.

**TABLE 1: Distribution of funding based on the EU net contribution in partnership projects (million euros)**

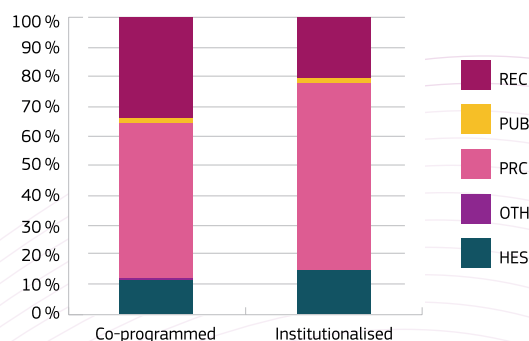
HE CLUSTERS	CO-PROGRAMMED	INSTITUTIONALISED	TOTAL
Research infrastructures (Horizon 1.3)	1,26		1,26
Health (Horizon 2.1)	0,05	4,43	4,48
Digital, industry and space (Horizon 2.4)	44,84	28,12	72,96
Climate, energy and mobility (Horizon 2.5)	36,73	30,30	67,03
Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment (Horizon 2.6)		2,22	2,22
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,88</b>	<b>65,07</b>	<b>147,95</b>

Source: EC eCORDA – Cleaned up and further elaborated by FFG and the expert group. Cut-off date: August 2023. No Co-funded Partnership projects are covered as the data are not yet in the system. The status of a project belonging to a partnership and hence a partnership type was created manually in FFG, based on certain information in the database: call, topic and topic description, and instrument.

**FIGURE 1: Eligible proposals, projects and success rates**



**FIGURE 2: Types of project beneficiary (%)**



Source: EC eCORDA – Cleaned up and further elaborated by FFG and the expert group. Cut-off date: August 2023. No Co-funded Partnership projects are covered as the data are not yet in the system. The status of a project belonging to a partnership and hence a partnership type was created manually in FFG, based on certain information in the database: call, topic and topic description, instrument.

HES: higher education; OTH: other; PRC: private for-profit companies; PUB: public bodies; REC: research organisations.



In regard to industry-driven EU initiatives like Institutionalised Partnerships and Co-programmed Partnerships, Austria has slightly increased its successful participation since 2022. For example, the participation in the Chips Joint Undertaking (Chips JU) shows that even a small country like Austria can have a strong position and substantial impact when pursuing European goals such as strategic autonomy (EU-SA) and related research and innovation projects.

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES TRIGGERED / IMPACT OF EU CONTRIBUTION

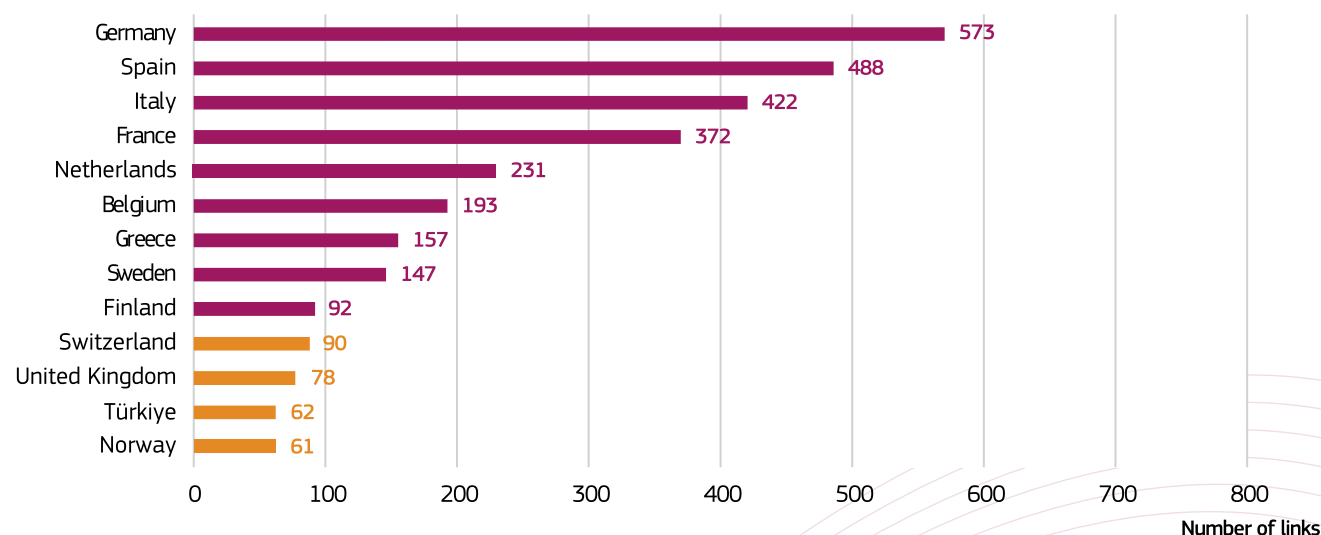
Austria launched four transformative national research and innovation missions that directly correspond to European Partnerships and that participate in the respective partnerships included in their strategy: mission Climate-Neutral City, the Clean Energy Transition, the Mobility Transition, and the Circular Economy Strategy. All aim to pursue Austrian and European policy goals such as Fit for 55, the Net Zero Industry Act, the Critical Raw Materials Act, the European Green Deal and many more.

For these four transformative missions, Austria has developed long-term impact and evaluation plans through to 2030, and has secured sufficient and stable R&I funding until 2026.

### COMPLEMENTARY AND CUMULATIVE FUNDING

The Clean Energy Transition Partnership can be seen in the context of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). The RFF financed Austria's participation in two Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs) on Hydrogen along with the Chips JU, which further corresponds to its Participation in the two IPCEIs on Microelectronics. Austria builds on the Driving Urban Transition Partnership in defining R&I activities related to the Mission on Cities in Horizon Europe.

**FIGURE 3: Top collaborators with Austrian researchers under European Partnership projects and links with selected third/Associated Countries**



Source: EC eCORDA – Cleaned up and further elaborated by FFG and the expert group. Cut-off date: August 2023. No Co-funded Partnership projects are covered as the data are not yet in the system. The status of a project belonging to a partnership and hence a partnership type was created manually in FFG, based on certain information in the database: call, topic and topic description, and instrument.

The values in Figure 3 are in line with the European Partnership average.



## SUCCESS STORIES

The impact of Austria's participation in European Partnerships has had a notable impact, evident through numerous examples such as:

- ✦ The Driving Urban Transition Partnership has had a high impact on Austrian R&I in its domain, as well as on the EU Cities Mission, and at the Austrian national level with its transformative Climate-Neutral City mission.
- ✦ Austrian researchers successfully participated in ERA-NET BiodivERsA. This laid the groundwork for the new European Partnership Biodiversa+, in which Austria will participate and from which the Austrian research community can highly benefit.
- ✦ Austria implements its common position on alignment as agreed among the major R&D stakeholders. This was a collaborative process bringing together the relevant Austrian research stakeholders to work towards a common national agreement on transnational alignment in research strategy, planning and funding. For details, see [https://www.era-learn.eu/documents/eralearn2020\\_t43\\_casestudyno4\\_commonalignmentpositioninaustria\\_final.pdf](https://www.era-learn.eu/documents/eralearn2020_t43_casestudyno4_commonalignmentpositioninaustria_final.pdf).
- ✦ When the European Chips Act – with the Chips JU as its R&I component – was launched, Austria substantially increased its already high commitment to the Chips JU and secured an additional EUR 71 million. To enable the establishment of manufacturing facilities as a follow-up to R&I and to ensure the security of supply and resilience of the EU's semiconductor sector, the Austrian Ministry in charge secured substantial additional funding sufficient for the requirements of Austrian industry.
- ✦ Corresponding to its participation in European Partnerships, Austria is actively participating in IPCEIs. IPCEIs focus on sectors important for addressing European strategic autonomy and technological sovereignty. Austria participates in a high share of the IPCEIs established thus far, namely in the IPCEI on Batteries, two IPCEIs on Hydrogen and the two IPCEIs on Microelectronics.

## ADDRESSING EUROPEAN STRATEGIC AUTONOMY

As in many other countries, strategic autonomy and technological sovereignty is an increasingly important issue in Austria. Austria is exploring measures on how to tackle relevant aspects. As institutions are autonomous in their collaboration strategy, only guidance can be developed at the policy level.

One such aspect of strategic autonomy/technological sovereignty is the increased focus on research security and the avoidance of foreign interference in R&I. Here, Austria has anchored the topic in its national ERA Action Plan 2022-2025, along with a baseline study that is currently being conducted among Austrian Higher Education and Research organisations, which aims to raise awareness and identify areas of joint action.